The Lions' Pride

SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY • FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2015 • VOLUME LIII NO.18 • SINCE 1965

From West Point to Saint Leo University

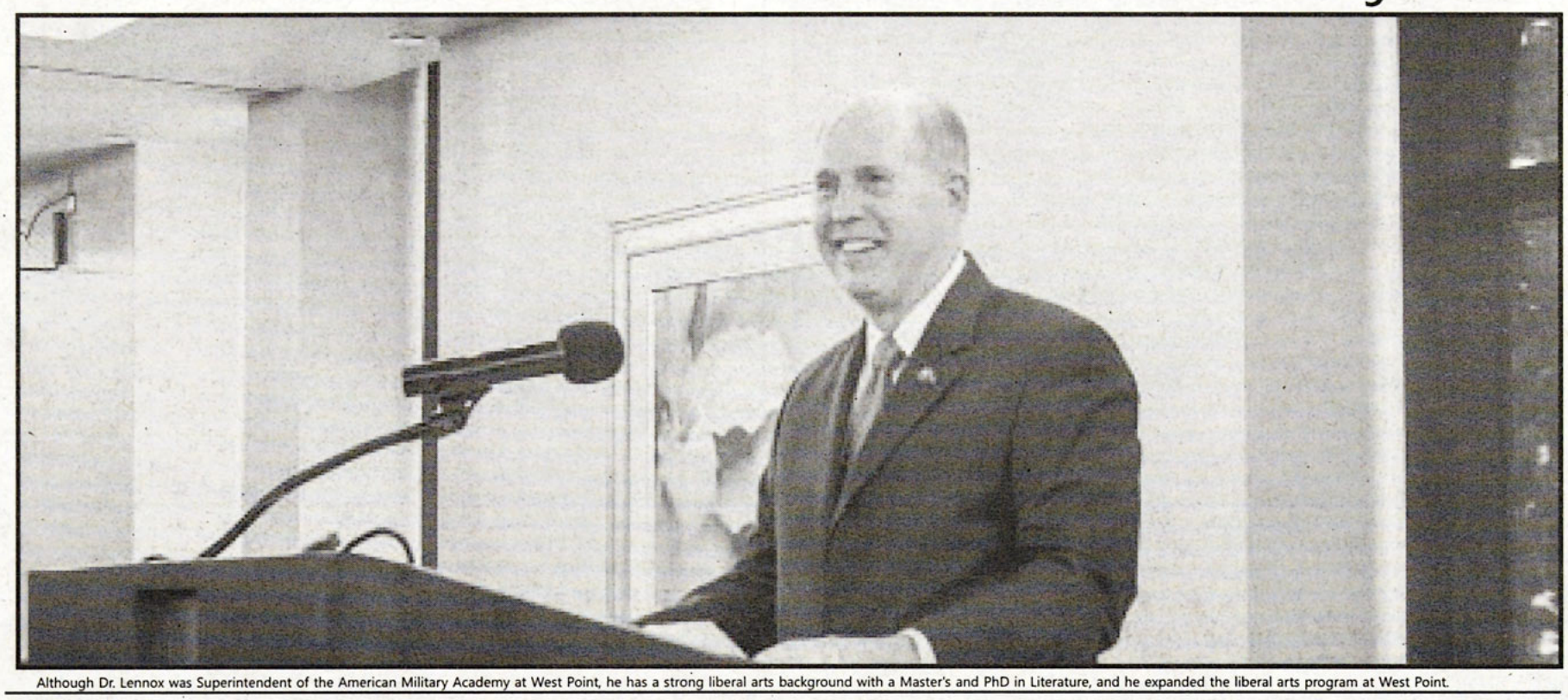

Photo courtesy of University Communications

Although Dr. Lennox was Superintendent of the American Military Academy at West Point, he has a strong liberal arts background with a Master's and PhD in Literature, and he expanded the liberal arts program at West Point.

By Annie Hays
Arts & Entertainment Page Editor

On Feb. 8 the University announced that Dr. William Lennox Jr. has been chosen to replace Dr. Arthur Kirk, Jr. as president of the University.

Lennox has had a long and distinguished career before coming to the University as a member of the Board of Trustees in 2008. He attended The United States Military Academy at West Point where he received his bachelor's degree in international affairs. He received his Master's and PhD in Literature from Princeton University. His doctoral dissertation is on American war poetry. In addition, he graduated first in his class at Fort Leavenworth's Command and General Officer' s School, and he completed the Senior Service College Fellowship at Harvard University.

Lennox served in the U.S. Army for 35 years, and left as a Three Star Lieutenant General. During his time in the military, he served as the Deputy Commanding General and Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Army Field Artillery Center; the Chief of Staff for III Corps and Fort Hood; the Assistant Chief of Staff, CJ-3, at Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea; the Deputy Commanding General, Eighth United States Army; and Chief of Legislative Liaison.

Lennox then became the Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point in 2001, and he held this position until 2006. Over the five years he held this position, Lennox oversaw many exciting changes at West Point, including upgrades to the liberal-arts program, expanding the study-abroad program, and completing a $220 million fund-raising program for the Academy.

"I'm most impressed with [Lennox's] diverse background. He's been in business, the military, and the liberal arts," said Zach Brassur, Senior.

In 2008, Dr. Kirk asked Lennox if he would serve on the University's Board of Trustees, and he took on the challenging position. He served as the Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee. He had been inspired most by the students and faculty on campus, and he wants to get the alumni just as excited about the University as the people here currently.

"I like that [Lennox] was an internal hire. It shows that we pay attention to our family here at Saint Leo," said Br. Robert Amarillas, Sophomore.

While serving as a member of the Board, Lennox was the Senior Vice President at the Goodrich Corporation, a Fortune 500 aerospace firm. Lennox said he got to see ethical leadership in action during his time at Goodrich.

"I'm excited about Dr. Lennox because he was president of a college before this, but he also has so much life experience besides academia," said Carol Ann Moon, Associate Professor and Reference and Instructional Outreach Librarian.

Dennis Mullen, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees and head of the Presidential Search Committee, said it was a long and nearly impossible task finding a suitable replacement for Kirk. According to Mullen, there were over 100 applicants for the position, and this reflects how well the University is perceived across the nation.

"Our goal was clear: select a candidate who embodied our mission and our core values, understood that we are a student-centric model, and would clearly believe that our best days are still yet to come," said Mullen.

Kirk's dream will always be with the University, and Mullen said that in short, the committee was looking for the next Kirk.

Earlier that week, Lennox was unanimously selected by the committee and the Board of Trustees to become the 9th president of the University.

He lightened the mood of the rather serious press conference by joking with the audience, and it is clear he will bring his easy-going attitude and incredible work ethic to the Office of the President.

"I think his energy level is just right for Saint Leo. [Lennox] has the right background and attitude to continue Dr. Kirk's vision," said Joshua Bartholomew, Sophomore.

Lennox believes the University's greatest strengths are its mission and cores values, the teaching abilities of the faculty, and the online program. Our weaknesses are retention and financial accessibility, and he plans on finding solutions to those problems as president.

"We could not have attracted a leader like Bill Lennox if it weren't for…the faculty, staff, and students," said Kirk. "We have a leader that knows and is committed to our mission, shares our core values, believes in our vision, and will assure that Saint Leo's greatest days are ahead of us."

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Quinton Aaron Visits

Photos courtesy pf Johnathan Shoemaker

101 On Camping

Photo taken from twitter@shadysAce

Creepy Real Animals

Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

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Local News

Photo courtesy of SLU ROTC

Team 1 members: CPT: Cadet Chong, Mentor: SFC Marchewski, Cadet Noble, Cadet Johnson, Cadet Yarbough, Cadet Solmonson, Cadet Diebel, Cadet Johnson, Cadet Holland, Cadet Moore, Cadet Dunnigan, and Cadet Sialer

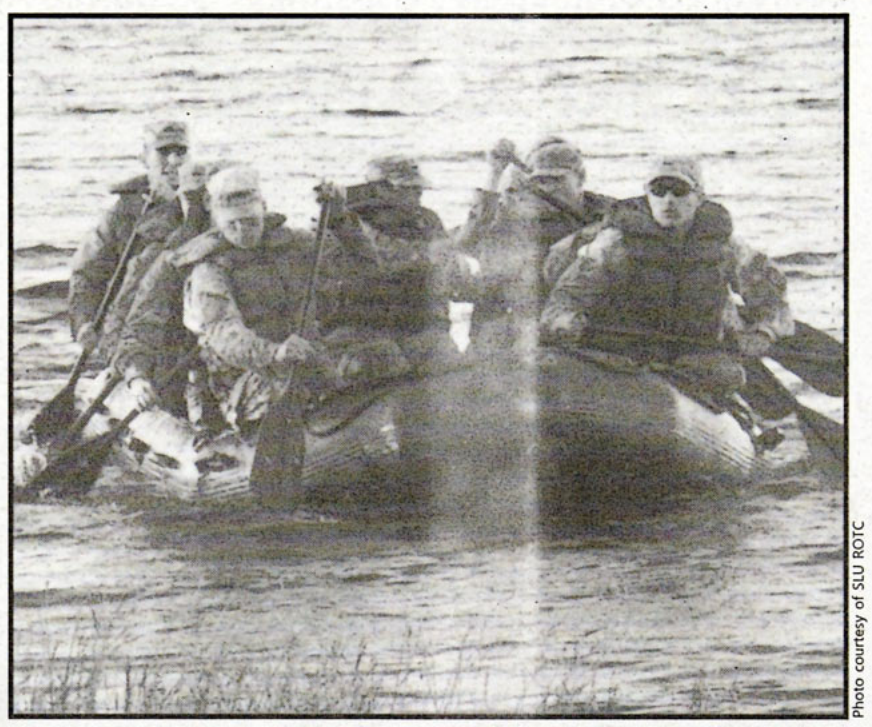

Photo courtesy of SLU ROTC

Team 2 members: CPT: Cadet Johnston, Mentor: SFC Gordon, Cadet DesJardins, Cadet Cottrell, Cadet Torres, Cadet Hickman, Cadet Swonger, Cadet Walker, Cadet Hart, Cadet Mize, Cadet Thurwanger, and Cadet Basin

The Ranger Challenge 2015 tested the physical endurance of the ROTC Suncoast Battalion.

The Army ROTC Suncoast Battalion, of which Saint Leo University is part of, competed in the Army ROTC Ranger Challenge and placed second out of 56 teams.

The Suncoast Battalion is made up of the University of South Florida Saint Petersburg, Saint Petersburg College, and Saint Leo University. Each year a group of cadets in the Suncoast Battalion competes in the Ranger Challenge to test its military skills, physical fitness, and teamwork.

The Challenge is sponsored by the U.S. Army Command and is open to all Army ROTC cadets.

The two-day event took place Jan. 22-25 and covered 18 miles and eight events. Teams from the Southeast United States came to compete at Camp Blanding near Starke, Florida, where their competition consisted of rifle marksmanship, a hand grenade assault course, a land navigation course, a foot march, a patrol boat race, an obstacle course, a river crossing, and a commander's challenge, which was a secret surprise event. All events are timed and graded by active duty military members.

The team's future as leaders in the United States Army was tested in many areas. During the competition, the Suncoast Battalion placed first in the ruck march, marksmanship, and zodiac events.

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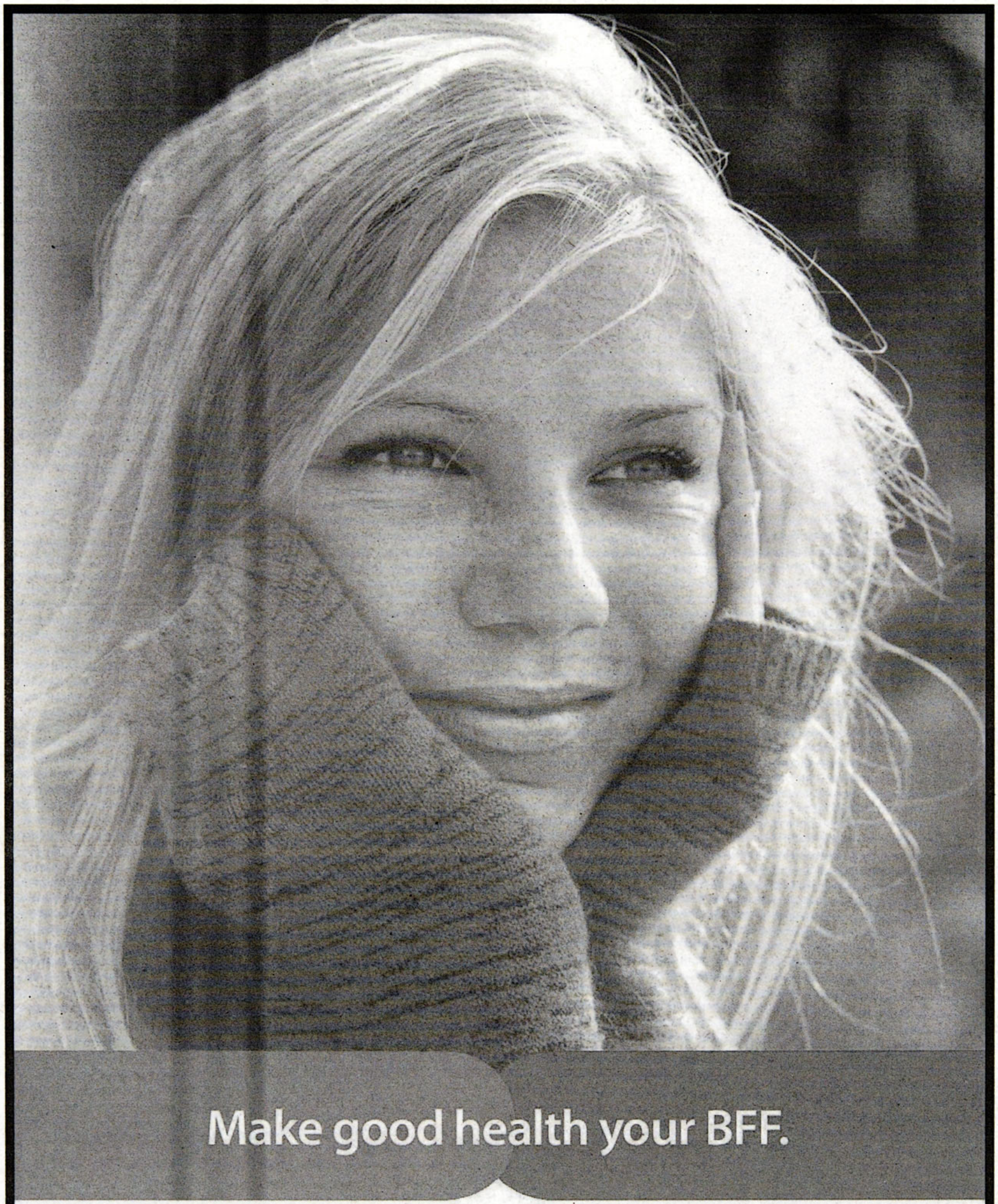

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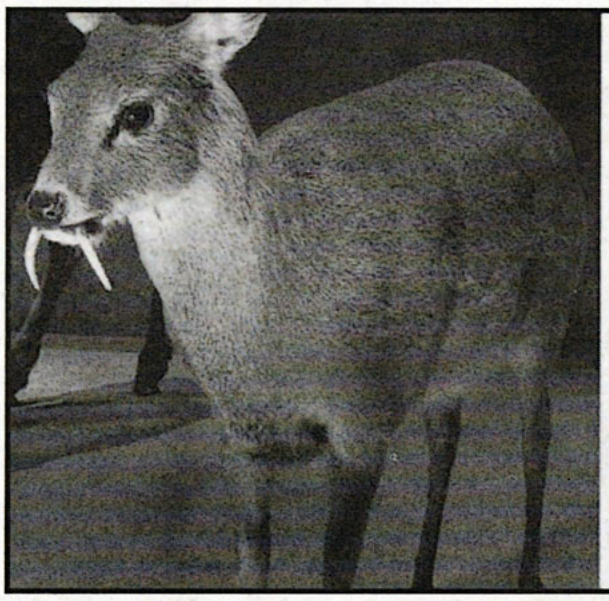
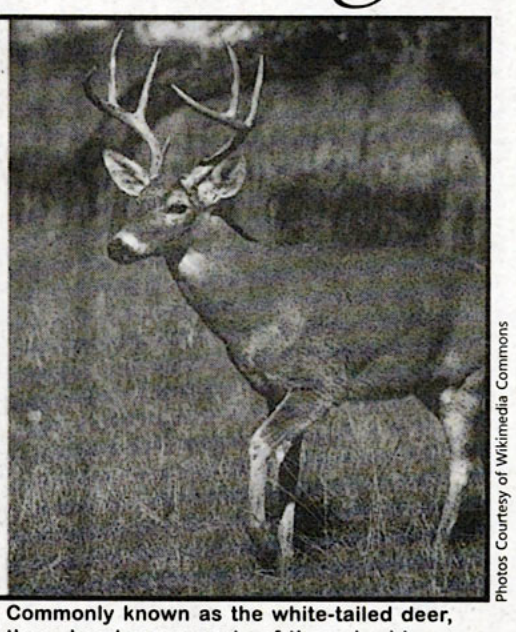
Science

When Herbivores Attack: Stories of Danger



A taxonomy of the Chinese water deer also known as the fanged deer.

These deer have been reported to each birds to help grow antlers.



Commonly known as the white-tailed deer, there has been reports of these herbivores eating small birds and mammals.

Photos Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

By Kristen Collins
Contributing Writer

The Carnivore, an animal that feeds on flesh…check. The Omnivore, who feeds on plants and other animal…check. The Herbivore on the other hand, let's take a closer look into the supposed plant-eating animals.

The animal kingdom is very cut-throat when dealing with adaption and survival-of-the-fittest, but the food web is a lot more intricate. Prey can become predator, bright colors indicate danger, camouflage becomes a way of life to stay hidden and scare off enemies. One of the strangest animal occurrences comes from the kingdom of herbivores, the unassuming plant eaters of the world. Rather than defining them as animals that only survive off of plants and other forms of vegetation, they instead should be defined as an opportunistic carnivore.

Scientifically speaking, the opportunistic carnivore is somewhat like an omnivore but is more based on survival, limitations, and opportunity. While carnivores only eat meat so their survival continues, the herbivore does not just eat plants for the taste or satisfaction. Instead, herbivores eat because of their limitations on speed and what actually is easily available to them in nature. The winter season is when the opportunistic carnivores show their colors. With a limited amount of food and vegetation to graze on, dead animals and small unassuming creatures become prey to normal carnivores and a few types of herbivores.

Such a discovery in herbivores show that said animals are very adaptable to the environment pertaining to food. Carnivores as a whole can only survive off of flesh and are unable to correctly take nutrients from other sources. on an evolutionary scale, they are more susceptible to extinction through lack of prey and cannibalism. Omnivores are able to utilize both plants and animals but evolution has made it necessary for some forms of both for a healthy diet. Herbivores on the other hand take nutrients from the core of the earth with the least amount of contaminants, which many other animals cannot do (eating grass and shrubs). They also take into account that eating other animals and cannibalism can also be in their diet depending of the situation and availability. If there is a weakened animal within range of an herbivore, there is a chance that said herbivore may or may not eat it.

Some animals that have been caught on camera demonstrating this specific type of behavior, are cattle and an assortment of deer. These grazing animals have many documented videos of carelessly eating birds and small mammals, whether they are hungry or just wanting a snack. And as deer are curious by nature, it has been also documented that a hunter's fresh kill will be scavenged off of first by the local deer. Carcasses and small animals hold the same value to an opportunistic carnivore just as grass and leaves do. As for the cattle, since they are domesticated, one of the main occurrences of eating flesh comes from any types of chickens in their pen. On such occurrence happened when a baby chicken crept too close to a cow and said cow swooped down, eating the chick like any trough or hay stack.

Growing antlers sometimes takes too long or does not grow to their full potential without additional foods in a deer's diet. Such cases have occurred with the red deer in Scotland. It came to the local's' attention when there was an overabundance of bird killings because the deer needed minerals like calcium, not available in plants.

Now seeing cute animals in the wild may make people have second thoughts. Just because they look docile and nice means nothing if they are hungry enough. If deer can mutilate cars, they can most definitely kill a human with antlers and hooves. Cute and cuddly…more like the white rabbit from Monte Python.

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Science

The Fabric Stitched around our Bodies

By Amber Fink

Advertising Manager and Editorial Page Editor

Everything we wear is made out of fabric, sometimes more than one type of fabric. Often, we will notice the 100 percent cotton tag on our clothing. Sometimes there is a combination of 70 percent cotton and 30 percent polyester. All fabrics have different textures, weights and warmth they bring to our bodies. The following fabrics are the top 12 fabrics used while making clothing. Therefore, many of us have one of these pieces of fabric on our bodies daily.

Cotton voile: Voile is soft, lightweight cotton that is breathable and semi-sheer. Imported from Italy, voile is an ideal fabric for blouses and often features unusual prints.

Cotton lawn: Lawn is very similar to cotton voile but is slightly crisper.

This fabric is nice to wear during hot summer days. It is lightweight, woven, semi-transparent, very fine, smooth, and has no texture on its surface. This fabric is most commonly produced is Laon, France which is the major producer of linen lawn.

Rayon challis: Raylon is a soft, plain woven, lightweight fabric and often printed. Although this fabric is lightweight like the cotton voile and cotton lawn, this fabric is slightly heavier than both of those. It is usually made from rayon or wool. Challis is used to create faux chenille fabrics, which are good for making scarves and baby blankets, by layering and stitching all fabric with the exception of the bottom layer.

Chambray: Chambray is another smooth, lightweight fabric. This fabric is a linen-finished gingham cloth with a white weft and a colored warp. According to the standard dictionary the relationship between the weft and the warp is "(in weaving) the crosswise threads on a loom over and under which other threads (the warp) are passed to make cloth." This creates a mottled appearance. This fabric is most useful when making spring or summer tops or skirts.

Denim: Denim is most likely one of the most familiar names of fabrics. Instantly, when someone thinks of denim they most likely think of jeans or a denim jacket. Denim is defined as sturdy cotton with a warp-faced textile; therefore the weft passes under two or more warp threads. This fabric does not stretch as easily as most.

Double gauze: Double gauze is a unique fabric that consists of exactly what it sounds like, two layers of gauze sown together. This is not the fabric someone would want to use for clothing due to its heaviness and the lack of breathability. However, this fabric is great for quilt making. Double gauze quilts often appear cozy, with a soft wrinkled appearance.

Knit: This fabric is the second most commonly worn following denim. This fabric has a light to medium weight. This is considered someone's "go-to" when sewing. Someone will have a difficult time going wrong with this fabric since it brings so much opportunity. This fabric can stretch in all directions, making it ideal for t-shirts, loungewear, yoga pants and so much more!

Silk: Silk is a versatile fabric because it is smooth, soft and strong. Silk is a lightweight fabric that drapes easily and can appear shimmery. Although this has a very nice texture, it's hard not to let it slip out of your hands since it can be so slippery while trying to move the fabric through the sewing machine. For those who want a challenge while sewing, they should try sewing with silk as it is sometimes difficult to work with for handmade items. Silk is an adaptable fabric that can be used or worn during any time of the year from the lining of winter cots to lightweight summer dresses."

Satin: Satin can vary from lightweight to heavyweight, depending on the type of satin. Like silk, it has a glossy appearance and is slippery. This fabric is great for pajama making since this fabric is very smooth. Sometimes people have satin bed sheets, but they should keep in mind they are very slippery so the sheets have a better chance of slipping off other the bed.

Linen: Linen is a medium-weight fabric that is slightly elastic, causing wrinkles to form. This fabric conducts heat adequately, making it a great fabric to use with winter clothing. This fabric is quite diverse, as it is useful for home garnets like curtains, covers, a lounge pillows.

Wool: According to Craftsy, "There are over 200 different types of wool, coming from 40 different breeds of sheep, so the weight will vary depending on the type of wool. Wool is extremely hardwearing and versatile. It is also very warm and a good choice for colder weather garments," This fabric is produced by animals like sheep, cashmere and mohair from goats; qiviut from muskoxen, angora from rabbits and other types of wool comes from camelids. A popular brand of boots that uses wool is UGGS.

Flannel: Flannel is a soft, lightweight fabric. This is a great fabric to use on shirts, pants and jackets during the winter season. Flannel is composed of wool, cotton, or some other kind of fibers. Flannel can be created extra soften by being "brushed." Brushing is a process when a fine metal brush rubs the fabric to raise fibers from the loosely spun yarns. A well-known example of flannel is a plaid t-shirt.

A Saint Leo University staff member, Ellen Sheridan, is a quilt maker. She uses all cotton all of the time. She has a great talent and can make quilts in any where from one day to 6 months depending on the difficulty. "A quilt for a king size bed is 20 yards," says Sheridan. She has also made tree skirts and wall hangings with this fabric. "Cotton can be used on anything someone would have to iron, for example purses, clothes, table runners, napkins. I like that cotton is washable," says Sheridan. Sheridan personally feels that when buying cotton, the quality of it is most important. With good quality come good color, shape, and hold. In other words, "you get what you pay for", says Sheridan.

A great place to purchase many of these fabrics is Joann Fabrics and even online, where some purchases can be made in bulk.

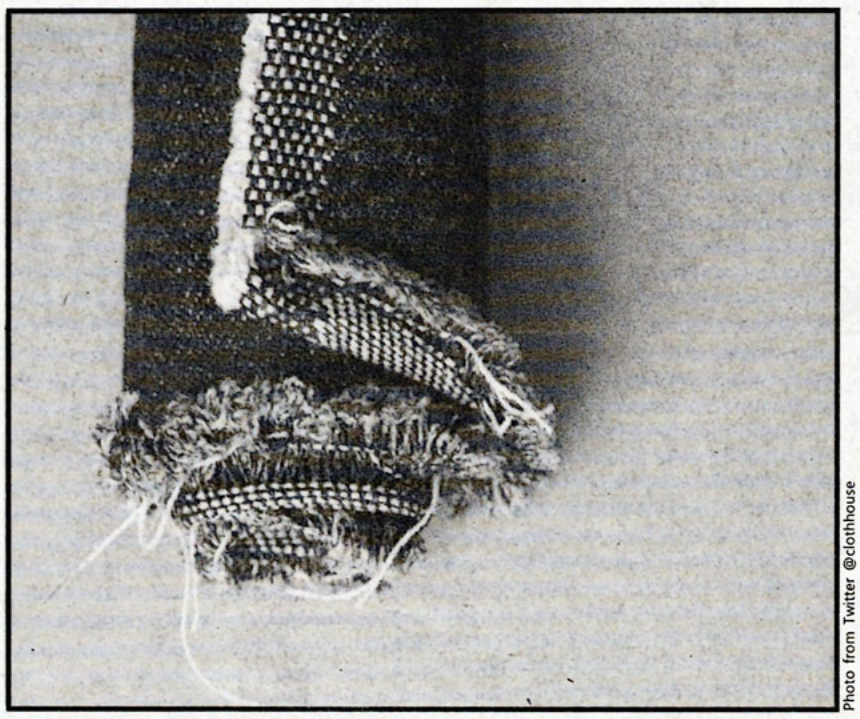


Photo from Twitter @clothhouse

Dungaree, similar to denim, is a fabric that is often used in manufacturing of jeans. Unlike its counterpart, the yarn used in weaving dungaree is pre-colored with the weft (white strands) uncolored.

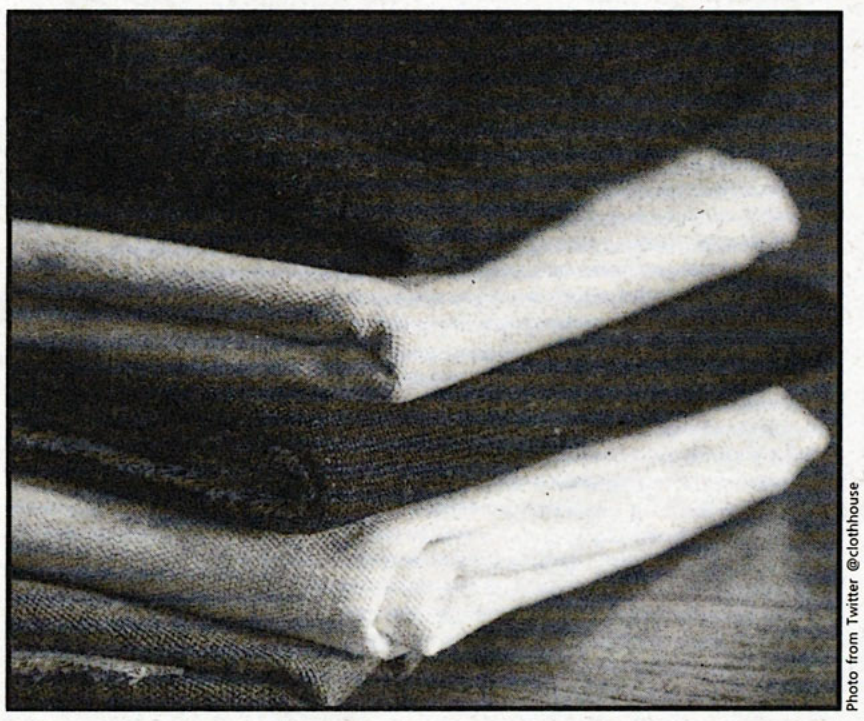


Photo from Twitter @clothhouse

Laundry tip: the separation of fabrics from the delicate to the durable is important in ensuring that clothing does not wear and remains intact.

Arts & Entertainment

10 Cancelled Shows Fans Want Back

By Jonah Robertson
Local and World News Page Editor

Carnivale: (2003-2005) Drama

"Carnivale" is a drama with fantastic elements set during the Great Depression. It follows the adventures of a traveling carnival, specifically focusing on Ben Hawkins. Hawkins is picked up by the carnival after his home is destroyed and his mother dies. In conjunction with the story of the carnival the show also focuses on Brother Justin Crowe, a minister who believes he is on a mission from God to create a new chapel in his town. However, certain events unfold throughout the show, and Hawkins and Crowe are both shown to be gifted with certain abilities. They both are eventually revealed to be prominent players in a conflict between Heaven and Hell.
"Carnivale" only lasted for 2 seasons, primarily due to its sometimes overly confusing plot. However, the acting is fantastic, and the story is outstanding, provided you could keep up with it. The cancellation of the show left many questions entirely unansared, and it shall be sorely missed by its fans.

Deadwood: (2004-2006) Western

"Deadwood" is set in the late 1800s, and is centered around two men who come to the town of Deadwood, South Dakota, and are caught up in the crime and corruption that run rampant throughout it. The show is gritty and dark, and paints a very disturbing picture of the west that some found off-putting. Other viewers who did not watch the show expecting Spaghetti Western material like John Wayne or Clint Eastwood movies are in for a treat, however, as the show's characters and story are incredibly moving and memorable. Sadly, there was not enough interest for the show to continue, and after three seasons HBO cancelled it, leaving much of the characters fates open, and the story unfinished.

Firefly: (2002-2003) Sci-Fi

Photo Courtesy of @carnivale twitter

The carnival in the show "Carnivale" is run by the hypercritical Samson.

Drama

Whenever underrated or cancelled shows are mentioned, the first that comes to many people's minds is "Firefly." Joss Whedon's sci-fi show only lasted one season due to conflicts with Fox showing the episodes out of order and people having trouble following the plot. However, the world that Whedon had created is incredibly in-depth and for those who truly watched the show, it is almost unmatched. From the smugglers to the Reavers (cannibalistic space pirates) to various factions and individuals encountered throughout the show, every aspect is riveting. The show specifically follows the travels of the starship Serenity, a smuggling craft as it travels through space doing jobs. The crew of Serenity are all incredibly personable and are a joy to watch. This is in part due to phenomenal acting and in part due to the show's writing and direction. The show eventually spawned a movie, "Serenity," but the story is still far from over, and many are hoping that it shall eventually be revived.

Jericho: (2006-2008) Sci-Fi/ Action

"Jericho" is a post-apocalyptic show about a town attempting to survive after a nuclear attack is made on the United States. There is quite a lot of action and drama to be had in the town, as the various people living there have to figure out how to survive in a world that is quickly becoming much more dangerous. While the show was cancelled after its first season, it was renewed for a second one after outraged fans sent some rather substantial complaints to CBS. Many people enjoyed the tense atmosphere and the survival elements that are a part of the show, and it has even been rumored that it might be picked back up by Netflix. Whatever the case, "Jericho" is a fun show to watch, and is a must see for any fans of the apocalyptic genre.

Terra Nova: (2012) Sci-Fi Action

"Terra Nova" aired on Fox a couple years ago and only lasted one season. While the acting in the show is merely passable, and the stories are often quite cliché, the setting is interesting. With the finale of the first season audiences are left with a huge cliffhanger that is never resolved, and many want to see this series return. The show follows a colony of humans who travel back in time to a prehistoric earth in order to ensure the survival of humankind. Earth is dying in their time, but through this new colony they plan to survive. Various conflicts ensue, including another colony being discovered. The largest point of interest in this show is its special effects, however, as the dinosaurs are incredibly impressive visually. These fantastic effects eventually lead to the show's downfall, as the 4 million dollar cost per episode was too much to sustain with the show's relatively small population of viewers.

Photo Courtesy of @Freaks_Greeks_ twitter

Freaks and Geeks paints an incredibly realistic image of high school life in the 1980's

Heroes: (2006-2010) Drama

"Heroes", at its beginning, was a fantastic show. By the fourth season it was a joke, but the first season is a masterfully told story of people discovering they had superpowers, and learning how to use them. The show is a little difficult to follow, due to how many primary characters it had, but it still held a solid community of viewers for its four year run. It was finally cancelled due to poor ratings and poor writing. Sadly, the writers strike of 2007 irreparably damaged the show's quality. Many clamor for the show's return, and it has recently been announced that a continuation/reboot of the series will occur sometime in 2015. Hopefully this time the show will have a longer, and more fruitful life.

Dead like Me: (2003-2004) Comedy/Drama

"Dead Like Me" follows a young girl named George who discovers that she is dead after being hit in the head by a flying toilet seat. She is then recruited to become a grim reaper, marshalling death to those whose time has come. However, she does not like to follow the rules given to her by her boss, Rube, and causes lots of trouble for the other reapers. The show's premise is a bit ridiculous, but it is both funny and well thought out. It only lasted two seasons before being cancelled, and according to many there is a serious drop in quality after the first season. This was most likely due to the show's creator leaving after a debate with the producers. While the second season is not fantastic, the first season of the show is amazing, filled with wit and intelligence, and it shall be missed by many.

Freaks and Geeks: (1999-2000) Comedy/Drama

"Freaks and Geeks" is a show about a couple different groups of teenagers during high school in the 80s. It gave commentary about parenting styles, and the various conflicts teenagers went through on a daily basis. It is also incredibly funny, not because it mocked the teens, but it showed them living their lives, and the ridiculous things that they did to try and be a part of something. The show only lasted one season, but it launched quite a few actors into stardom, such as Seth Rogen, James Franco, Jason Segel, and John Francis Daley. The show shall be missed by its fans, but it left a substantial impact on the careers of these actors, and has lead them to much success. While Freaks and Geeks certainly had its good and bad episodes, it is very entertaining, and is missed by its fans.

Arrested Development: (2003-2006, 2013) Comedy

"Arrested Development" follows the Bluth family as they deal with life after the family business goes bankrupt and the patriarch of the family, George, is sent to prison. The other members of the family are incredibly dysfunctional, and it is up to George's son Michael to keep everything from falling apart. The show is incredibly funny, as it highlights and exaggerates elements of dysfunctional families. The show only lasted for three seasons before it was cancelled, and many considered that a real tragedy. Thankfully for those fans, in 2013 Netflix picked the show back up for another season, and it looks like they may continue to produce it for the next couple years.

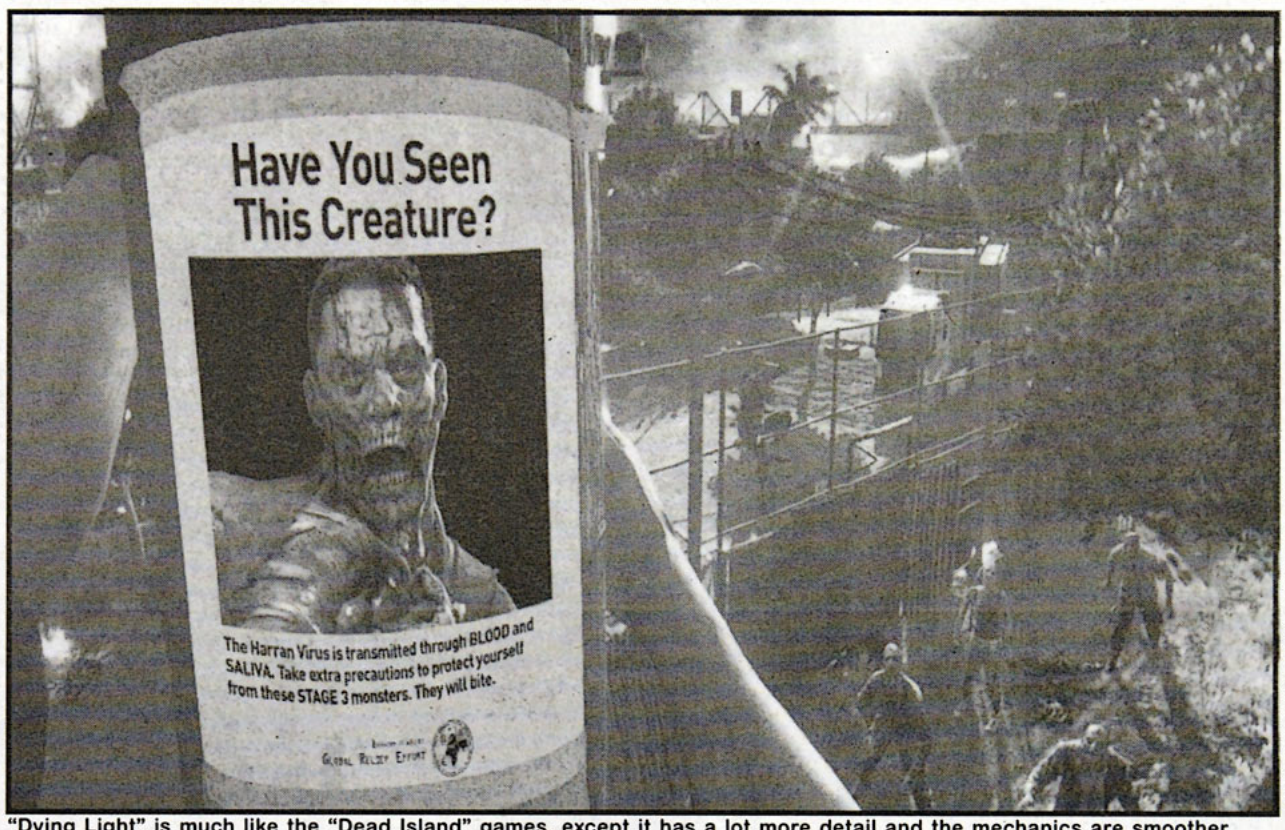
Pushing Daisies: (2001-2009) Comedy/Drama

"Pushing Daisies" is an odd show, featuring a pie maker who also has the ability to momentarily bring the dead back to life. He then, with the help of a very cynical detective, a waitress looking for the love of her life, and his old crush that he brings back to like, went to solve their murders, and make pies. While the premise is quite weird, the show itself is funny and heartwarming. Sadly, the show's ratings were not good enough for the network's standards, and it was cancelled after two seasons.

Arts & Entertainment

A Very Bright Apocalypse

By Austin Chiavaroli
Staff Writer



All Photos Courtesy of @DyingLightGame twitter

"Dying Light" is much like the "Dead Island" games, except it has a lot more detail and the mechanics are smoother.

With there being an abundance of first-person zombie survival games in the gaming market, the latest addition shows a better way of using this formula. "Dying Light," developed by company Techland, is a big improvement from their other zombie apocalypse game franchise, "Dead Island."

The player plays as an undercover operative named Kyle Crane (Roger Craig Smith), who is trying to get into the quarantine zone in a city called Harran. Crane's mission is to find rogue agent, Kadir Sulaiman "Rais" (Jim Pirri), who is in possession of a file that could wipe out the reputation of his agency. However, once he arrives, it seems the city's state is a lot worse than it seemed, and now he has to choose between either staying on course with his mission, or helping the survivors.

The city's over world is large and has a lot of room for the player to run around and find supplies. The game's parkour mechanic gives the player the ability to scale the buildings of the city, rather than running in fear on the zombie riddled roads. Much like the recent game installments in the "Far Cry" franchise, there are safe house towers where players can parkour and climb their way to the top to help illuminate their map and gain supplies.

The day and night mechanic in the game isn't new as it is seen in numerous other video games. In game, during the day it is suggested to venture out and look for supplies and airdrops, set traps, and save survivors up until nightfall. Once night has come it is best to stay indoors and find things to do inside. The reason for this is because at night the zombies grow in numbers, transform, and become faster and more challenging to kill.

Suspense is a key feeling that this game brings to the player. Some moments in the main campaign are intense and riddled with jump scares and pure chaos. One game move that comes in handy but can also strike terror in the player is an optional move that allows them to look behind Crane. In slow motion the player can see if anything is chasing him or sneaking up from behind for a nibble. The most intense moments are when a horde of the undead are chasing after the character, and the player looks behind to see all of them.

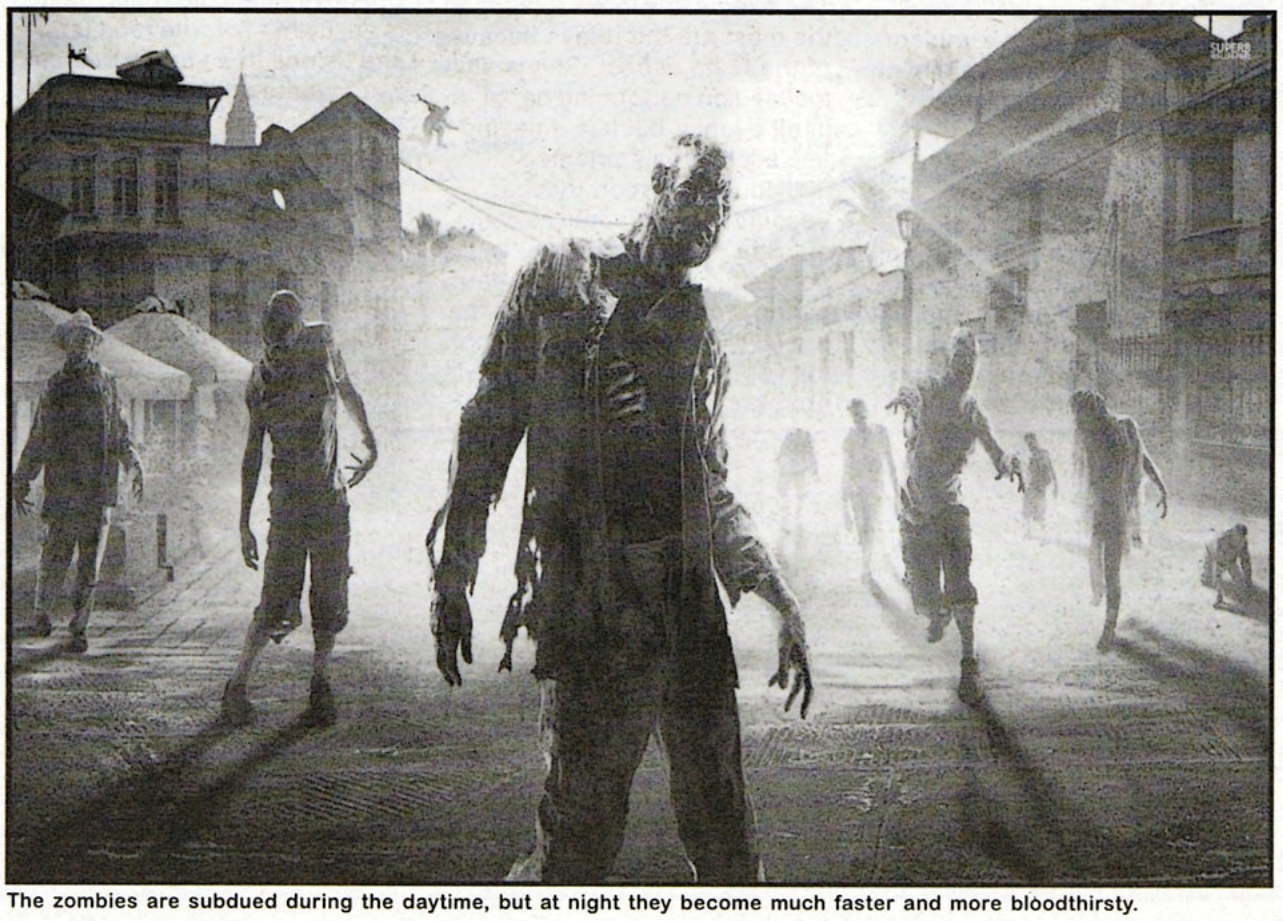
Just like the "Dead Island" franchise, the weapons can be crafted in this game from items found across the over world. There is also a three prong ability upgrader where, after players level up, they can upgrade their skills in ability, survival, and power. The game also uses high tech technology that allows game to be played at 60 frames per second.

An issue with this game is that throughout most of it the player is pretty much an errand boy, running all around the city for specific things that survivors are needing. However, when a mission dealing with the main campaign is given, some can be easy while others can almost make the players pull their hair out. The difficulty on some of the missions is just insane, and sometimes might cause the player to just "rage quit" all together for a while.

Another issue is the story in general. Even though it has its good moments, it's almost all together just bland and boring. Some characters are relatable, but everything else is slow and doesn't give much to the player in character development and originality. The zombie apocalypse story has been done to death and is wearing out its welcome in the gaming society.

Many speculate that originally this game was going to be a sequel to the "Dead Island" franchise. However, the developers at Techland have insisted that the game was an original idea and that they hadn't made a "Dead Island" sequel. Their reason for this is because of the loss of money from their failed attempts with "Dead Island: Riptide", and "Escape Dead Island." An announcement trailer for "Dead Island 2" was revealed in summer 2014 at E3, a major gaming convention, with Techland not being the developers, but instead a German company called Yager Development.

"Dying Light" has a lot of good things going for it. Even though it almost has the same story as Techland's previous games, it breaks itself out of the mold by having new and improved game mechanics. At 60 FPS (frames per second), this game shows us where zombie games are headed in diversity and content. "Dying Light" gets the rating of 4.0/5.



The zombies are subdued during the daytime, but at night they become much faster and more bloodthirsty.

Sports

More Than a Talent: Swimming To Success

By Samantha Witte

Contributing Writer

Photo courtesy of @SLU Swimming Twitter

Weber and the Saint Leo University swim team strive to exemplify the core values of personal development, respinsible stewardship, integrity, community, excellence, and scholarship.

At the age of nineteen, most sophomores come back to school finally adjusted and ready to begin a new year. This is the prime time for students to really get into their major, and start focusing on who they want to be and what they want to do. They have made it through their first year, which most likely brought many overwhelming and anxious feelings along with a great deal of change and challenges. Some students come from areas that are close to home, and others travel quite a large distance. Imagine traveling far, but also seeing the college you chose to attend for the first time the day you arrive, entering into a brand new culture entirely, speaking a primary language different from the one that is spoken at school, searching for excellent academics, and aspiring to become a successful athlete. This sounds like quite the challenge. This is the exact sort of challenge that Nicole Weber was willing to take on in the pursuit of a well-rounded collegiate career.

Weber is a sophomore on Saint Leo's women's swimming team. She is from a town called Konz, which is found all the way in Germany. This is quite the journey and often provokes the inquiry of how exactly she found out about Saint Leo.

"I just told the community that I wanted to go to America, and they helped find schools for me," said Weber. At that point it shaped up to be a perfect match for her and Saint Leo.

"They needed a breaststroker, and that was my favorite stroke. I skyped the coach a lot, and thought he was really nice," said Weber. She seemed very happy with her decision, and she has found a lot of success while being here.

Weber was recently named the Sunshine State Conference Swimmer of the Week for her fourth time during this season. Along with this, she holds the school records for the 200 individual medley, 400 individual medley, 100 breast, and 200 breast. And, just in case that was not impressive enough, she shares the records for the 200-medley relay and the 400-medley relay. It may have been a tough challenge first coming here, and being so far away from home, but Weber has managed to come in and dominate.

Along with this talent comes a strong mindset and passion to achieve her goals. "I started swimming when I was five, but I couldn't swim very well," said Weber. "My mom was afraid for me to try. Then I kept swimming with my friends, and I keep going." Weber has earned more than just records, she has been able to find the joy of the sport, along with the drive to become the successful athlete that she is today. She came in with the same dream of success that many other athletes come in with, and her only goals at this point are to beat her own records, as well as have fun and do well with the team. Weber is a very team oriented even though swimming contains many individual aspects.

This team is currently working very hard in preparation for the upcoming Sunshine State Conference Championships.

"I'm pretty excited because it's with the team, and the best event of the year," said Weber.

The events she looks forward to the most are the relays because of the team aspect. She is still focused on performing her best in all events, but it is amazing to see such a team oriented individual in a sport that can become very personal as well.

She maintains a humble perspective that demonstrates caring more about the team than her own personal records. This also shows a lot about the swim program, and Saint Leo University as a whole. Both of these are all about working together to accomplish goals as a team, which will then also reflect positively for each individual, much like the women's swim team.

Aside from the swimming, it is amazing to highlight some of the things that makes Weber unique as a person. It is easy to forget that she does more than just swim since she has devoted a lot of time to being in the pool. She loves the color pink, pasta is easily her favorite food, and she listens to a variety of music. Her favorite animal is a dolphin and her favorite movie that she saw recently was *When the Game Stands Tall*. In the small amount of free time that she is able to find while being a student athlete, you can find her hanging out with friends or shopping. Weber is an amazing individual, with a love for her team, and a strong drive to succeed.

Lions' Bites

Softball

Feb. 8, 2015
Saint Leo Univrsity v. Southwest Baptist University
Win 6-2

Feb. 8, 2015
Saint Leo University v. Palm Beach Atlantic University
Loss 6-5

Baseball

Feb. 8, 2015
Saint Leo University v. Salem International University
Win 11-1

Tennis

Feb. 6, 2015
Women's Tennis
Saint Leo Univesity v. Armstrong State University
Loss 9-0